

# MINISTERS OF THE ASSOCIATE SYNOD, 1740-1783

EDITED BY PROF. ROBERT MORTON, D.D.

THE list of ministers given in this paper was first drawn up by one who was not only an able theologian but also a noted ecclesiastic. Dr Walker says of him : Adam Gib "is altogether a unique figure in that eighteenth century. He ruled his Antiburghers with a firm, strong hand, and I do not know but that an Antiburgher Synod was as difficult to rule as many a great empire ; they tried rebellion once, but it utterly failed. A clear-headed man, with no imagination, plodding away in the old theologies—I should suppose a dull preacher save to persons of his own type—given to formulas, he had in him the elements of the enthusiast or the fanatic. He wrote, we are told, his first covenant with God in the blood of his own veins. Not without mellowness of soul withal : his elder brother was disinherited for bad behaviour, but the Antiburgher chief burned their father's will on his promise to amend ; and his plan was successful. *Ultimus ecclesiasticorum !* I have sometimes been disposed to exclaim over him." <sup>1</sup>

The list was prepared by him to feel the pulse of this Antiburgher organism with relation to currents of thought that were moving somewhat strongly around it at that period. Marks were attached to the names of ministers to indicate their attitude to questions brought before the Synod that were designed to counteract certain trends of thought. In these questions we have two matters : an echo of past controversies with which the little church had been agitated, and the shadow of a controversy that was beginning to trouble it. The past controversies were those regarding the Burgess Oath and the controversy shadowed was the attitude to be taken up to the existing government of the country.

Adam Gib was a strong Antiburgher, and thought it utterly inconsistent with a faithful testimony to Reformation principles to take the oath that was exacted of all burgesses in certain towns and which, in his judgment, expressed approval of the existing ecclesiastical constitution. He was as strongly opposed to those who refused to give

<sup>1</sup> Walker's *Scot. Theo. and Theologians*, p. 116.

civil allegiance to the existing government on the ground that it did not approximate to the ideal of civil government identified with the National Covenants. He had as little patience as Thomas Boston with what were called the Anti-Government men, now known as Reformed Presbyterians. He maintained that as the civil authorities discharged the first function of civil government in maintaining order, in protecting life and property, our civil allegiance ought to be given to them, but we ought along with this to witness against defects in the civil constitution and labour for their removal. The "Separating Brethren" referred to in the Overture were those who took a different view as to the bearing and scope of the Burgess Oath, and the attitude to be taken up to the existing civil authorities. In Adam Gib's view, a current of opinion was setting in that was leading away from what is described in the Overture as "the homologation and constant profession of the whole state and management of the Secession Testimony." While he stoutly maintained that the civil ruler had a duty to the Church and to religion, he as stoutly maintained that he was going beyond his God-appointed province in interfering in any way with the internal affairs of the Church.

The following is a reprint of the manuscript.<sup>1</sup> As far as possible dates have been supplied from other sources—chiefly Dr Robert Small's *Congregations of the United Presbyterian Church*—where blanks or apparent errors occurred. Those supplied are placed in square brackets. Gib died in 1788. The Rev. George Whytock was ordained minister at Dalkeith on April 17, 1776, and died on October 24, 1805. The Rev. Robert Chalmers, minister at Haddington, was ordained on August 17, 1780, and died on December 29, 1837. He joined the Constitutional Presbytery in 1806.

A ROLL of the Ministers of the Associate Synod alive in May 1769,  
with the Dates of their Ordinations and Admissions, and the  
Presbyteries they belong to; as also some things about their  
Meeting in May 1769. By Adam Gib.

The Associate Synod held a Meeting at Edinburgh, May 2-4, 1769, at which time two things peculiar took place, viz. :

- i. An Overture was laid before them: That they might agree to frame, pass and publish an Act, bearing this homologation and constant profession of the whole state and management

<sup>1</sup> The history of the MS. cannot be given. It was found among the papers of James Johnston, a Bathgate bookseller, who had bequeathed it to "one of the Professors of the Original Secession Church to be handed down by him to his successors." See Scott's *Annals and Statistics, Original Secession Ch.*, p. vi.

of the Secession Testimony, as the same is set forth in all the public Acts and Deeds which have been emitted by the Associate Presbytery and Synod, and in the Synodical Acts and Deeds contained in the publications which have been made under the Title of Acts and Proceedings relative to the religious clause of some Burgess Oaths, the separating brethren, Mr Thomas Nairn and Mr Thomas Mair; as also a Vindication and Justification of the Secession Testimony against the shameful and wicked attempt which was made, about fourteen years ago, for defaming and destroying the same, in a large Overture published by the pretended Synod of the Separating Brethren concerning pretended errors in the Judicial Testimony and other Deeds which had been passed by the Associate Presbytery.

As to the said Overtures, one was for agreeing to proceed according to the whole of it (with the concurrence of Thomas Beveridge, Elder, from Paisley),<sup>1</sup> otherwise for delaying all consideration of it till next meeting: and the majority were for appointing a Committee for drawing up an Overture in vindication and defence of the Judicial Testimony, the Acts concerning the Doctrine of Grace, and the Renovation of our solemn Covenants, and the answers to Mr Nairn, with the declaration and defence thereto subjoined, leaving the further consideration of the Overture till afterwards.

2. The Synod agreed to make a trial of meeting only once a year, adjourning to the first Tuesday of May, 1770, by the casting vote of Mr William Graham, Moderator.

<sup>1</sup> Mr Gib craved that it might be marked, that as he had voted on the first Question,—Proceed to some step upon this Overture, or delay till next meeting?—so he voted on the second Question—Agree to proceed according to the whole of the Overture, or appoint a Committee?—though with the concurrence of only one elder; because he reckons that the Reverend Synod ought to have given some present and proper entertainment to the whole of the Overture proposed, as it only aims at an acknowledging, sustaining, and maintaining of the whole bygone state and management of the Secession Testimony—that they ought to have done so as a necessary piece of faithfulness on behalf of the whole of the Lord's cause among their hands. Thomas Beveridge, from Paisley, declared his adherence to the above, as having voted in the same manner. *N.B.*—Mr Barlass, in voting Appoint, added—and lay aside, or throw out, the rest of the Overture; and insisted to have this marked with his vote, though he did not insist on it after the voting was over.

The Overture was laid before the Synod in writing, condescending on the several Public Acts and Deeds, and enforced by seven reasons.

## EXPLICATION OF MARKS

	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Charges.</i>	<i>Presbyteries.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
E. Presbytery of Edinburgh	· · ·	Kilmours · · ·	Glasgow · · ·	[Mar. 16] 1789
P. Perth · · ·	Edinburgh · · ·	Edinburgh, <i>p. a.</i> · · ·	June 18, 1788	
G. Glasgow · · ·	Gateshaw [Morebattle] · · ·	Earliston, <i>p. d.</i> · · ·	Feb. [6] 1773	
S. Stirling · · ·	Dunse · · ·	Earliston · · ·	Mar. 4, 1792	
E <sup>n</sup> Earlston · · ·	Muckhart · · ·	Stirling · · ·	[Feb. 17] 1780	
S <sup>n</sup> Sanquhar · · ·	Mearns · · ·	Glasgow · · ·	[Sept. 28] 1777	
M.L. Moyrah and Lisburn · · ·	Temple Patrick · · ·	M.L. · · ·	June [12] 1799	
N.L. Newton-Lamavady · · ·	Kinkell · · ·	Perth · · ·	[Nov. 22] 1789	
P.A. Pennsylvania, America · · ·	Elgin · · ·	Perth, <i>p.</i> · · ·	Feb. [11] 1773	
	Alexander Troup [1763]	Perth · · ·	[May] 1784	
1740 Nov. 11 [13]	Alexander Blyth · · ·	Perth · · ·		
1741 April 2	David Wilson · · ·	Perth · · ·		
1742 May 13	[1751] John Milligen · · ·	London · · ·	[June 27] 1784	
1743 Jan. 13 [12]	William Moncrieff · · ·	Orr · · ·	Jan. [26] 1795	
1745 [June 5]	John Goodlet · · ·	Alloa · · ·	Aug. [14] 1786	
[1746 Mar. 25]	David Arrot · · ·	Sanquhar, <i>p. c.</i> · · ·	[Feb. 2] 1775	
1746	Alexander Stewart · · ·	Markethill · · ·	[1807]	
1747 June 3	John Tennant · · ·	[Newton-L.] · · ·		
1747 Sept. 13 [14]	John Dalziel · · ·	[Roseyards] · · ·		
1748 Nov. 25	John Walker · · ·	Earliston · · ·		
1748 June 7	Denny · · ·	Denny · · ·		
	Wigton · · ·	Wigton · · ·		
	Montrose · · ·	Montrose · · ·		
	Alexander Nimmo · · ·	Newcastle · · ·		
	Robert Reid · · ·	Ryemockie N.L. · · ·		

a. Present at the Meeting in May 1769 · · 43  
 b. Voted agree · · 1  
 c. Caused mark their votes of delay · · 14  
 Members of Committee · · 9  
 Number of Members of Synod · · 87

1752	July 8	Midholm	Earlston, <i>p.</i>	[May 24] 1803
1752	July 23	Craigdam	Perth	[April 10] 1801
1753	Jan. 3	Moyrah and Lisburn	M.L.	[1782]
1753	Jan. 11	Glasgow	Glasgow, <i>p. d.</i>	[Dec. 15] 1793
1753	Aug.	Bangor	M.L.	[America]
1753	Aug. 21	Balfour	Stirling	1787
1753	Oct. 24	Stirling	Stirling, <i>c.</i>	[Sept. 18, 1810]
1753	Nov. 8	Methven	Perth, <i>p. d. c.</i>	Jan. [31] 1803
1754	July 2	Pequea	P.A.	
1754	Nov. 26	Hoggate	Edinburgh, <i>p.</i>	Feb. 22, 1795
1755	April 2	Dalkeith	Edinburgh, <i>p.</i>	April [21] 1774
1755	April 9	Cairneyhill	Perth	[Aug. 12] 1791
1755	Sept. 10	Peebles	Earlston, <i>p. d.</i>	[Loosed April 1769]
		Burntisland	Perth	[April 10] 1787
		Newton Limavady	N.I.	[1793]
		Hamilton	Glasgow, <i>p. d.</i>	July [9] 1775
		Norham	Earlston, <i>p. c.</i>	[Feb. 14, 1824]
		Paisley	Glasgow, <i>p. d.</i>	[June 10] 1798
		Alexander Preston	Perth, <i>p. d.</i>	[Resigned June 25, 1799]
		Simon DEMPSTER	Perth	April [15] 1799
		Thos. Thomson	Perth, <i>p.</i>	[July] 1789
		Josiah Hunter	Stirling, <i>p. d.</i>	Dep. [May] 1780
		Matthew Henderson	P.A.	1796
		Laurence Reid	Earlston	
		James Douglas	Path of Struiehill	[Loosed April, 1783]
		William Graham	Stranraer	[Oct.] 1772
			Whitehaven	Jan. [9] 1801
		John Mason	Newcastle	
		John Anderson	Colmonell	Glasgow
		John Mason	Greenloaning	
		Walter Leithhead	Ellridgehill	Stirling, <i>p. d.</i>
		Robert Watson	Edinburgh	Perth
		John Buist	P.A.	Glasgow
		James Henderson	New York	Perth
		Robt. Cunningham	Cumbernauld	Edinburgh, <i>p. d.</i>
		George Murray	Errol	Perth
		Thomas Bennet	Greenock	Sanquhar
			Rattray	East Earns
			Lockerty	Perth
			Ceres	Edinburgh
				Sanquhar
				Perth

<i>Ordained.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Charges.</i>	<i>Presbyteries.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
1763 April 6	Wm. Jamieson	Kilwinning	Glasgow	[Nov. 23, 1792]
1763 May 10	Alexander Oliver	Craigmillan	Edinburgh, p.	[Jan. 1, 1812]
1763 Aug. 11	Henry Clark	Nairn	Perth	
1763 Nov. 30	Robert Smith	Auchinleck	Glasgow	[June 12, 1817]
1764 April 3	James Russell	Orwell	Perth	Deposed 1783
1764	Robert Annan		P.A.	
1764 Sept. 25	Patrick Buchanan	Nigg, Ross-shire	Perth	[Aug. 7] 1802
1764 Oct.	Michael Arthur	Dumbarrows	Perth, p. d.	
1765 Mar. 12	Translated, Peebles	Mar. 27, 1771; Aberdeen, 1782; Deposed 1787.		
1765 May 15	William Inglis	Dumfries		[May 10, 1826]
1765 July 24	Andrew Mitchel	Beith	Sanquhar, p. d.	[Feb. 8, 1812]
1765 Aug.	Samuel King	Tyron's Ditches	Glasgow	
1765 Aug. 28	Samuel Moor	Abadowie	M.L.	
1765 May 30	John Robertson	Jedburgh	N.L.	
1765 Oct. 23	Wm. Marshall	Philadelphia	Earliston, p.	Feb. 1803
1766 June 11	James M'Quae	Kendal	P. America	[April 24, 1806]
1766 July 10	William M'George	Midcalder	Sanquhar	1802
1766 Aug. 13	Laurence Witherspoon	Haddington	Edinburgh, p.	Deposed [1771, died 1804]
1766 Sept. 10	Thomas Cleland	Bo'ness	Edinburgh, p.	July [3] 1799
1766	David Somerville	Strathaven	Glasgow, p.	Aug. 1779
1766	James Murdoch	Nova Scotia	N.L.	Dec. [26] 1797
1767 Mar. 3	James Barlas	Crief	Earliston	America, June 1793
1767 Oct. 7	John Young	Hawick	Stirling, p.	[Dec. 10, 1811]
1767 Nov. 10	Colin Brown	Abernethy	Perth, p.	[Mar. 25, 1806]
1767 [Nov. 18]	Thomas Small	Coupar-Angus	Perth, p. d.	July [8] 1805
1768 Mar. 15	David Wilson	Lauder	Earliston, p.	[May 5] 1772
1768 June 29	William Holmes	Bellyeston	M.L.	[Aug. 7] 1770
1768 Aug. 24	Archibald Bruce	Whitburn	Edinburgh, p.	Feb. 18, 1816
1768 Dec. 22	John Gray	Brechin	Perth, p.	[Sept. 8] 1802
1769 Feb. 22	David Harper	Benholm	Perth, p.	Demitted [April 13, 1789]
1769 Mar. 28	John France	Bucklivie	Bucklivie	[Aug. 3, 1808]

Thus far comes the Rev. Mr Gib's MSS. in the month of May 1769. N.B.—Mr Gib makes the number of the members of Synod to be 87. But Mr Whytock of Dalkeith has supplied an omission of Mr Gib's by inserting Mr William Holms of Bellyeston, Presbytery of Moyle and Lisburn, Ireland, whose settlement took place, June 29, 1768, so that the number of ministers belonging to the Synod in May 1769 was 88.

# ASSOCIATE SYNOD, 1770-1783

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The following Roll of Synod Members is by Mr Whytock :—

<i>Ordained.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Charges.</i>	<i>Presbyteries.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
1770 July 13 [18]	Thomas Duncan	Elgin	Elgin	[July 5, 1818]
1770 Nov. 14	William Mitchell	Clola	Elgin	[April 16, 1832]
1771 Feb. 13	George Cowie	Huntry	Elgin	[Deposed April 25, 1800]
1771 Sept. 17	Thos. Darg	Wick	Elgin	Demitted 1779
1772 May [June 30]	James Ramsay	Glasgow	Glasgow	[Deposed 1801]
1772 April 21	John Clarkson	Ayr	Glasgow	
1772 July 14	James Clarkson	Muddy Creek	America	
1772 Aug. 20	John White, jun.	Dunse	Earlston	1775
1772 Aug. 25	Francis Pringle	Gilmakirk	M.L.	Demitted 1799
1772 Sept. 2	John Muirhead	Kelso	Earlston	Demitted 1785, died 1797
1772 Oct. 25 [13]	William Barlas	Dundee	Perth	Aug. [5] 1779
1772 Oct. 27	John Proudfoot	Leith	Edinburgh	Deposed [Aug. 31] 1785
1773 April 14	John Colquhoun	Whitenhaven	Sanquhar or Dumfries	Demitted 1786
1773 May 12	James Inrie	Arnhall	Perth	Demitted 1780
1773 Nov. 30	James Greig	Newmills	Glasgow	[June 19, 1813]
1774 April 20	William Drysdale	Stranrawer	Sanquhar or Dumfries	[April 10, 1810]
1774 April 27	John Young	Dumbarrows	Perth	Deposed [June 23] 1800
1774 Aug. 16	William Bennet	Forres	Perth	[Nov. 29] 1798
1774 Nov. 15	James Bishop	Coupar-Angus	Elgin	Demitted 1780, died 1793
1774 Dec. 14	Thomas Simpson	Kendal	Perth	Resigned 1780
1775 Mar. 18 [16]	David Morison	Morebattle	Sanquhar	May 9, 1819]
1775 June 13	Andrew Thomson	Mearns	Edinburgh	[Jan. 18, 1817]
1776 April 17	George Whytock	Dalkeith	Sanquhar	[Oct. 24, 1805]
1776 Aug. 22	Andrew Thomson	Sanquhar	Hamilton	[Sept. 27, 1815]
1777 July 1	James Punton	Hamilton	Glasgow	May [26] 1801
1777 Aug. 14	Alex. Pringle	Perth	Perth	[May 12, 1839]
1777 Sept. 9	James Robertson	Kilmarnock	Glasgow	[Nov. 3, 1811]
1777 Sept. 11	Robert Dowie	Thurso	Elgin	[June 11] 1797
1777 Nov. 12	Andrew Young	Keith	Aberdeen	[May 21] 1788
1778 May 20	John Bell	Nilhall	M.L.	1792
1778 July 30	James Pattison	Glencairn	Sanquhar	[July 28, 1816]
1778 Dec. 29	James Aitken	Perth	Perth	[Sept. 24, 1834]
1779 Mar. 3	John Turnbull	Ayton	Edinburgh	Deposed 1790, restored 1792, died [14 Dec. 1818]
1779 May 26	John Hutton	Milisle	M.L.	

<i>Ordained:</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Charges.</i>	<i>Presbyteries.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
1779 Aug. 26	William Barlas	Whitelhill . . .	Aberdeen . . .	Deposed 1799
1780 Mar. 23	James M'Ewan	Workington . . .	Sanquhar . . .	[Sept. 19, 1813]
1780 April 12	Admitted, Alexander Howieson	Dundee, 1785 Howford . . .	Elgin . . .	
1780 April 13	Admitted, Isaac Ketchen . . .	Auchtergraven, 1793 Nairn . . .	Elgin . . .	Aug. [16] 1805 [May 12, 1820]
1780 April 19	John Blair . . .	Colmonell . . .	Glasgow . . .	[Jan. 11, 1820]
1780 Aug. 3	Robert Colvile . . .	Lauder . . .	Edinburgh . . .	[Feb. 6, 1824]
1780 Aug. 17	Robert Chalmers . . .	Haddington . . .	Edinburgh . . .	[Dec. 29, 1837]
1780 Aug. 23	John Jamieson . . .	Forfar . . .	Forfar . . .	
	Admitted, William Laing . . .	Edinburgh, 1797 Newry . . .	M.L. Aberdeenshire . . .	[July 12, 1838]
1780 Oct. 25	James Wylie . . .	Cabrach . . .	Aberdeen . . .	Deposed 1782
1780 Nov. 8	Wm. Carmichael . . .	Belfast . . .	M.L. . .	1798
1780 Nov. 22	Andrew Arrott . . .	Wick . . .	Elgin . . .	Demitted [May] 1788
1780 Dec. 12 [14]	Alexander Allan . . .	Coupar-Angus . . .	Perth . . .	[Jan. 30, 1824]
1781 Aug. 22	Peter M'Millan . . .	Ahohill . . .	M.L. . .	America . . .
1781 Aug. 31	James Taylor . . .	Ayr . . .	Glasgow . . .	Aug. 12, 1793
1781 Nov. 14	George More . . .	Shields . . .	Kelso . . .	Demitted 1785
1781 Nov. 21	Alexander Moncrieff . . .	Muckhart . . .	Stirling . . .	Mar. [24] 1804
1782 July 2	George Jerment . . .	London . . .	Edinburgh . . .	[May 23, 1819]
1782 Sept. 26	Walter Galbraith . . .	Londonderry . . .	N.L. . .	
1782 Dec. 17	James Drysdale . . .	Craigend . . .	Perth . . .	
1783 April 8				[June] 1786

Thus far Mr Whytock brought this Roll.

Copied at Haddington, Sept. 27 and 28, 1822, by [Rev.] Robert Chalmers, Haddington[?].